

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments, the rejection of Claims 1-3 as being unpatentable over JP '696 and of Claim 4 as being unpatentable over JP '696 in view of JP '600, both under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the telephone interview in which the above amendments were under consideration. Although the Examiner could not agree to allowability at this stage, the undersigned is of the impression that the Examiner does agree that neither the JP '696 document nor the JP '600 document, even if taken together, teach the use of the claimed pin fit-in hole portion which is arranged at a location in the vicinity of the region of meshing engagement and bulging radially inwardly which aids in reducing backlash to a minimum.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness based on JP '696 and/or JP '600 is not established. Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

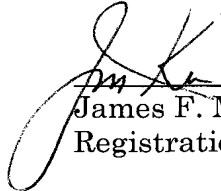
If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 080306.56872US).

Respectfully submitted,

May 10, 2010



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